received from individual organisations are considered as per the existing policies of Government of India and norms laid down for the purpose. Normally, State-wise allocations are not made in definite pre-determined proportion under the schemes for financial assistance to voluntary organisations.

Own Farm Water Management Scheme

†*376. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Own Farm Water Management Scheme;

(b) in which States of the country the above scheme has been introduced;

(c) whether the Bihar Government has submitted any proposal for Own Farm Water Management Scheme; and

(d) if so, what action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OFAGRICULTURE (SHRIAJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) In order to improve production & productivity in Eastern part of the country a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme, "Own Farm Water Management" is proposed for implementation during the IX Five Year Paln in the States of Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Eastern U.P., W.B. (9 districts), Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur and Mizoram. Under the scheme, financial assistance for shallow tube wells, dug wells lift irrigation points, diesel pump sets would be provided through NABARD as credit linked scheme. The proposed pattern of funding provides for 20% beneficiary's contribution, 30% assistance from Government of India and 50% loan from NABARD.

(c) and (d) The Government of Bihar had submitted a proposal on Million Shallow Tube wells Scheme to the Planning Commission who suggested to this Ministry to cover this under the "Own Farm Water Management Scheme." The suggestion of the Planning Commission has been taken into account in the scheme. Besides, Planning Commission have allocated an additional central assistance of Rs. 25.5 crore to the Government of Bihar under the State Plan to implement the Million Shallow Tube Well Project.

Discontinuation of season tickets

*377. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rakesh Mohan Committee has recommended to discontinue the season ticket facility for rail passengers;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, Government's reaction in the matter; and

(c) whether Government have taken any decision in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

US Patent for Indian Scientific Breakthrough

*378. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has achieved two major scientific breakthroughs, having developed a process to grow organs and a low cost simputer and succeeded in having a US patent for the medical breakthrough; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is laid on the table of the house.

Statement

Details of Major Scientific breakthroughs achieved by India

A doctor while working at the maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi developed a surgical technique for regenerating organs in mammals. It has been informed by the inventor that stem cells from body tissues like, peritoneum and gut, were selected and colonised with the tissue and organ systems in the body using specialised surgical technique. It takes about 2 to 3 months for the formation of an organ. This is a path breaking achievement as this technique has the potential of revolutionalising the medical science as one can see the possibility of doing away with organ and tissue transplants. No donors are required. As the body forms tissues and organs from its own cells, there is no problem of acceptance of foreign body, a problem associated with transplants. No post-operative treatment by immunosupressant drugs are required as needed in transplant surgery. The application was filed in the US Patent and Trademark Office on August 29, 1997 and the patent was granted on May 8, 2001.

The Simputer is a low cost portable alternative device to PC by which the benefits of IT can reach the common man. This has been designed and developed by the scientists of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. It is a hand held computing device. The design goal is to make it usable by people who may not be literate. The Simputer offers conversion of text to speech. It can currently read and speak several Indian languages. Thus, use of simple icons to be selected and text to speech output in local language are the primary